



MAY

I MAY DAY, BELTANE

The start of summer, by traditional reckoning of time, midway between equinox and solstice. Maypoles, floral nosegays and much celebration.

5 CINCO DE MAYO

Celebrates Mexican culture and *El Día de la Batalla de Puebla* (the Day of the Battle of the Puebla).

8 MOTHER'S DAY

Honor and cherish them all, mothers given and mothers chosen. We are, as well, 40 days past Easter: It's the **ASCENSION OF THE LORD**, a traditional day for dressing water wells. It's also **HELSTON FLORA DAY**; the entire town of Helston in Cornwall celebrates the arrival of summer with the Furry Dance, an ancient processional through the city. "Hal-an-Tow" is the song of the day.

15 PENTECOST

Holy Spirit on Earth. Known as well as White Sunday; it is traditionally the day for brewing Whistun ale. It's also a day called **COLD SOPHIE**: German tradition warns of cold air in mid May, usually at the 15th.

22 HARVEY MILK DAY

"You got to give them hope."

23 VICTORIA DAY

Canada's May Two-Four honors Queen Victoria; it is Canada's unofficial start to summer. It's also **ROSALIA**, an ancient festival of Ancient Rome honoring the lovely rose and the goddess Flora.

30 MEMORIAL DAY

The unofficial start to summer in the United States. This year, Memorial Day falls on its traditional date of May 30.



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Image: The newly sprouted leaves on the swamp maple at my family's home in Boca Raton, Florida.

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